

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 807

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Arie Nettles for her honorable and astute service to Tennesseans with disabilities.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Arie Nettles of Nashville is one such dedicated servant leader and a woman of ability and integrity in the public sector, who is stepping down from her role as chair of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council (SPPC) of the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), after serving with distinction since January 2018; and

WHEREAS, a highly successful associate professor of clinical pediatrics and a psychologist for school-age children and young adults with developmental disabilities and autism, Dr. Nettles studies inequities in educational testing and assessment and the impact of education and training in health care; she serves as a licensed psychologist in Tennessee and Michigan and is a nationally certified school psychologist and a nationally registered health service provider; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nettles serves as founding director of the Office of Inclusion and Health Equity (OIHE), a diversity program designed to educate and train workforce on cultural awareness and elimination of healthcare disparities; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Dr. Nettles began her service with DIDD as a member of SPPC as an advocate for children; she was first appointed chair of SPPC in January of 2018 and reappointed chair in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nettles fiercely led the SPPC and its four sub-councils, addressing issues facing persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities; her work included finding solutions to the ongoing Direct Support Professional workforce crisis, expanding DIDD's Enabling Technology program, and providing transportation and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, her leadership guided the council's work of collaborating with the department to address issues resulting from COVID-19 that affected the service delivery system and establishing itself as an advisory body in the development and creation of IDD Program Integration; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Nettles's remarkable success while leading the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' Statewide Planning and Policy Council is directly attributed to her passion and dedication to the disability community and her commitment to bettering the lives of Tennesseans with disabilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Dr. Arie Nettles for her honorable and exemplary service to Tennesseans with disabilities as chair of the Statewide Planning and Policy Council of the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.